

COLASPIS FULVOTESTACEA LEFÈVRE AND ITS CLOSE RELATIVES  
(COLEOPTERA: CHRYSOMELIDAE)

DORIS H. BLAKE, *Department of Entomology, Smithsonian Institution,  
Washington, D. C. 20560*

ABSTRACT—Three new species of *Colaspis* are described: *C. leiosomata* and *C. cacaoi* from Costa Rica and *C. ostmarki* from Panama. A new description of the holotype of *C. fulvotestacea* Lefèvre is presented.

Recently I have received from H. E. Ostmark of the Division of Tropical Research at La Lima, Honduras, specimens of beetles of a species that was devastating banana fruit over 4,500 acres in Changuinola, Panama, near Almirante, with the request for a name of these. By coincidence I had just been drawing the type of *Colaspis fulvotestacea* Lefèvre which I had borrowed from the National Museum of Natural History, Paris because no one here had been able to identify that Lefèvre species. The Panama specimens are closely related to *fulvotestacea*, which was described from Cañoas, Colombia, although with some differences. In the United States National Museum is a series of smaller beetles from Waldeck, Costa Rica, collected on *Theobroma cacao* by Ballou that are also very close to *fulvotestacea*, and another series from San Carlos, Costa Rica, collected by Schildt and Burgdorf, still different but belonging to the same group with *fulvotestacea*. At first I was inclined to view these 3 as subspecies of *fulvotestacea*, but the aedeagi of all 3, while similar, are each different. These differences in the aedeagi together with other small differences are analogous to the differences found in the *brunnea* group in the United States. These beetles also form a group that is distinctly different from the other costate species in that the males show little or no clytral costation, being smooth and shiny, but the punctation is of the same pattern as the punctures between the costae of the costate species. The elytra of the females show more traces of costae, usually on the sides and at the apex. There are 2 other differences in these species making them unlike other costate *Colaspis*: first, there is a prominent transverse depression on the elytra below the basal umbone, and secondly, on the head is a line of indented punctures from the eye to the top of the clypeus. Possibly someone might think they are not of the same genus as *Colaspis*, but the strongly sinuate margin of the prothorax and the pattern of elytral punctures are distinctive features of *Colaspis*.

*Colaspis fulvotestacea* Lefèvre  
fig. 1

*Colaspis fulvotestacea* Lefèvre, Mitth. Munch. Ent. II, 1878:123.

6.2 mm in length, elongate oval, shiny reddish brown with apex of femora and

base of tibiae deeper brown, jaws piceous, antennae entirely yellowish brown, prothorax with undulate margin having finely pointed tips, finely punctate, elytra also finely punctate with punctures more or less in rows, transverse depression across base below umbone.

Head with interocular space  $\frac{1}{2}$  width of head, smooth with a few punctures over occiput and front, row of punctures from eye to frontal tubercles forming a depressed line, clypeus with a few coarser punctures, anterior margin almost straight over labrum. Antennae slender and long, entirely pale yellow brown. Prothorax not twice as wide as long with strongly undulate, almost toothed, margin; surface finely punctate, shining. Scutellum shiny deep reddish brown. Elytra almost 3 times as long as prothorax and a little wider with transverse depression near base, punctation moderately fine except in depression and in lines, after the pattern of the punctation in costate species. This male specimen without costae. Body beneath shining, smooth, reddish brown with coxae and apex of femora and base of tibiae deeper brown. Length 6.2 mm; width 3 mm.

Type: male, in National Museum of Natural History, Paris.

Type locality: Cañoas, Colombia, M. E. Steinheil.

*Colaspis leiosomata*, n. sp.

fig. 2

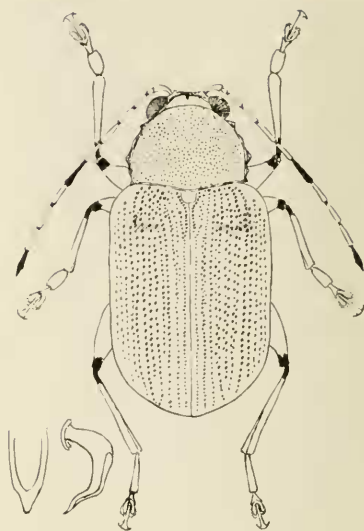
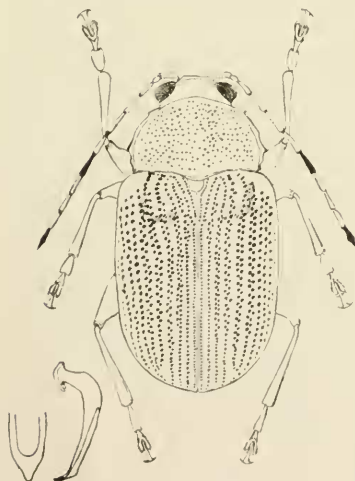
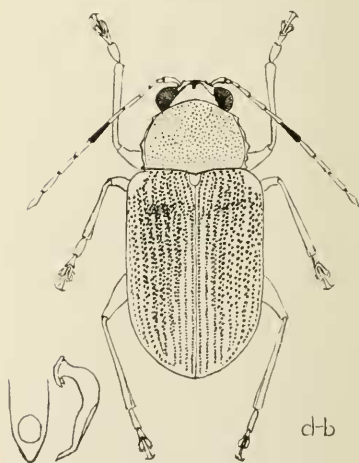
Between 6 and 6.5 mm in length, elongate oval, shining reddish brown with darker coloring at juncture of femora and tibiae, and dark 7th and terminal joint of antennae; prothorax finely punctate and with undulate margin; elytra with transverse depression below basal umbone, not costate in male, except possibly on side, and with vestiges of costae in female, elytral punctation moderately coarse and in female with traces of being in geminate lines.

Head with interocular space  $\frac{1}{2}$  width of head, occiput and front smooth and shiny, sometimes with a few very fine punctures, a depressed line of punctures running from eye to frontal tubercles, clypeus well defined and usually with a few coarse punctures, anterior margin varying from being nearly straight to widely curved over labrum, jaws piceous and large. Antennae long and slender, yellow brown with usually the 7th and last joint dark. Prothorax not twice as wide as long with undulate sides, margin often darker, moderately convex, shining with usually rather fine punctures. Scutellum smooth. Elytra almost  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as long as prothorax and somewhat wider, a transverse depression near base, very little trace of costae in males, but in females vestiges of costae on sides and at apex; punctation in males not noticeably geminate but in females punctures geminate as in the costate species. Body beneath pale except at the joining of femora and tibiae, which is darkened. Length 6–6.5 mm; width 3–3.4 mm.

Type: male, and 3 paratypes, USNM Type No. 72429.

Type locality: San Carlos, Costa Rica, Schild and Burgdorf collectors.

This species has the dark reddish-brown coloration of *C. fulvotestacea* Lef., but differs from it in that the elytra are not so long proportionately as in *fulvotestacea* and are more coarsely punctate. The aedeagus is much shorter than in the other 2 species.

1. *Colaspis fulvotestacea* Lefèvre Type2. *Colaspis leiosomata* new species3. *Colaspis ostmarki* new species4. *Colaspis cacaoi* new species

*Colaspis ostmarki*, n. sp.  
fig. 3

From 5.5–8 mm in length, elongate oval, shining yellowish brown with deeper brown prothorax, prothorax moderately finely punctate and with undulate margin, elytra with coarser punctures, mostly in geminate rows, except near apex and

margin where they become single, basal transverse depression on elytra below umbone, in female vestiges of costae along sides and at apex, females much larger than males.

Head with interocular space approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  width of head, occiput and front sometimes entirely smooth, without punctures, sometimes densely and finely punctate, always a row of depressed punctures from eye to frontal tubercles, clypeus coarsely and densely punctate, anterior margin nearly straight over labrum, jaws deep brown. Antennae long and slender, yellow brown with 7th and terminal joint often dark. Prothorax not twice as wide as long, convex, with undulate margins sometimes verging on being angulate, surface shining and usually finely punctate, but sometimes more coarsely and densely punctate. Scutellum deep brown. Elytra more than twice as long as prothorax with transverse depression below basal umbones, in female with costae along sides and subcostate at apex, in male very little costate vestiges; punctation near suture and margin in single rows but between in geminate rows becoming single near apex, punctation of the same pattern as in costate species. Body beneath and legs yellowish brown, occasionally femora at apex slightly deeper brown. Length 5.5–8 mm; width 3–4.5 mm.

Type: male, and 31 paratypes, USNM Type No. 72430.

Type locality: Changuinola, Panama, collected by H. E. Ostmark, June 26, 1972 and C. A. Stephens, April 21, 1971, on bananas.

These beetles were found in great numbers feeding on bananas over 4,500 acres in Changuinola, northern Panama, near Almirante. They are closely related to *C. fulvotestacea* Lefèvre, described from Colombia, but are more coarsely punctate and yellowish brown instead of reddish brown, and the elytra are not so long. There is a great difference in the size of the sexes—the female being much larger than the male. The species is named after Dr. H. E. Ostmark who has been working on them extensively as a pest to bananas, and who has observed their life history and written it up.

*Colaspis cacaoi*, n. sp.

fig. 4

From 4.5–6 mm in length, elongate oval, shining yellowish brown with jaws, the 7th and last antennal joints dark, head nearly impunctate except on clypeus, prothorax finely punctate and with undulate margin; elytra with pronounced depression below basal umbones, feebly costate on sides, punctation in basal half more or less alternately geminate, towards apex in single rows.

Head with interocular space  $\frac{1}{2}$  width of head, occiput and front shining, smooth, often impunctate except for the line of depressed punctures from eye to tubercles, clypeus with coarse punctures, anterior margin of clypeus nearly straight over labrum, jaws large and dark. Antennae long and slender, with 7th and usually apical joint dark. Prothorax not twice as wide as long with undulate margins, surface shining, finely punctate. Scutellum pale brown. Elytra more than twice but not 3 times as long as prothorax, and wider, with pronounced transverse depression below basal umbones, lines of punctures irregularly alternate in basal half, becoming more or less single on sides and at apex, some-

what costate, more so in female specimens. Body beneath entirely pale yellow brown. Length 4.5-6 mm; width 2.4-3 mm.

Type: male, and 13 paratypes, USNM Type No. 72431.

Type locality: Waldeck, Costa Rica, collected by S. and C. H. Ballou, on *Theobroma cacao*, July 21, 1936 and Feb. 13, 1934.

This is the smallest of the *fulvotestacea* group, and the palest yellow brown without any trace of deeper coloring at the apex of the femora. The male specimens often have a trace of costa from humerus to apex, the female with more pronounced vestiges of costae. All the specimens have strong elytral punctation. The aedeagus has a wider, more rounded tip than the other 2 species.

---

#### DR. MARION RUSSELL SMITH, A BIBLIOGRAPHY

DAVID R. SMITH,

*Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA*<sup>1</sup>

ABSTRACT—A list of the 150 publications of Dr. Marion Russell Smith is presented, almost all of which are on the taxonomy of ants, Formicidae. A list of the new taxa proposed is given following the reference in which they appear.

Dr. Marion Russell Smith worked and published on ants during a period of 51 years, most of the time while employed by the Bureau of Entomology and later the Insect Identification and Parasite Introduction Research Branch of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., from which he retired in 1963. He is presently living at his home in Arlington, Virginia. Dr. Smith was employed as an ant specialist in 1921 by the Mississippi State Plant Board where his duties were to identify, map infestations, and direct control and eradication programs of the Argentine ant (*Iridomyrmex humilis* (Mayr)). During this time, he worked under the direction of the late R. W. Harned who encouraged him to work on other ants of Mississippi as well as those of other States. Through Mr. Harned's encouragement, Dr. Smith was guided into his very productive career as one of the leading ant specialists of the world.

An impressive number of publications was produced by Dr. Smith, and few reprints of his articles are still available. The following bibliography will serve as a guide to those who wish to acquaint themselves with Dr. Smith's work. The bibliography contains 150

---

<sup>1</sup> Mail address: c/o U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. 20560.